at *Tangier*, the Moon being very near the ſame place, where ſhe was now.

Extract

Of a Letter, lately written by Mr. Nathaniel Fairfax *to the* Publiſher, *containing Obſervations about ſome* Inſects, *and their Inoxiouſneſs, &c.*

The Ingenious Author of this Letter, as he expreſſes an extraordinary deſire to ſee the *Store-houſe* of *Natural Philoſophy*, more richly fraughted (a Work begun by the ſingle care and conduct of the Excellent Lord *Verulam*, and proſecuted by the Joynt-undertakings of the *R. Society*) ſo he very frankly offers his Service in contributing ſome of his Obſervations, and begins in this very Letter to perform his Offer. For, Having taken notice of what was publiſht in *Numb. 9. p. 161.* out of the *Italian* Philoſopher *Redi*, vid. That Creatures, reputed Venomous, are indeed no Poyſons, when ſwallow'd, though they may prove ſo, when put into Wounds: He, for confirmation thereof, alledges Examples of ſeveral Perſons well known to him (himſelf alſo having been an Eye-witneſs to ſome ſuch Experiments) who have frequently ſwallow'd *Spiders*, even of the rankeſt kind, without any more harm than happens to Hens, Robin-red-breaſts, and other Birds, who make Spiders their daily Commons. And having made mention of ſome men, that eat even *Toads*, he adds, that though a Toad be not a Poyſon to us in the whole; yet it may invenome outwardly, according to ſome parts ſo and ſo ſtirr'd; an inſtance whereof he alledges in a Boy, who ſtumbling on a Toad, and hurling ſtones at it, ſome Juyce from the bruiſed Toad chanced to light upon his Lips, whereupon they ſwell'd, each to the thickneſs of about two Thumbs: And he neglecting to uſe, what might be proper to reſtore them, they have continued in that miſhapen ſize ever ſince; the uglineſs whereof, when the Relator ſaw, gave him occaſion to inquire after the cauſe of it, which thereupon he underſtood to be, as has been recited.

On this occaſion, the ſame Gentleman relates, that once ſeeing a Spider bruiſed into a ſmall Glaſs of Water, and that it tinged it

it ſomewhat of a Sky-colour, he was, upon owning his ſurpriſe thereat, informed, that a dozen of them being put in, they would dye it to almoſt a full *Azure*. Which is touch't here, that, the Experiment being ſo eaſie to make, it may be tried, when the ſeaſon furniſhes thoſe Inſects; mean time, it ſeems not more incredible, that this Creature ſhould yield a Sky-colour, when put in water, than that *Cochineel*, which alſo is but an Inſect, ſhould afford a fine *red*, when ſteep'd in the ſame Liquor.

An Account Of Some Books.

I. Le Tome troiſieme et dernier des Lettres de *M. DES-CARTES.*

As the two firſt *Tomes* of M. *Des-Cartes* his Letters, contain Queſtions, for the moſt part of a *Moral* and *Phyſiological* Nature, propoſed to, and anſwer'd by him; ſo *this* conſiſts of the Conteſts, he had upon ſeveral Subjects with divers Men eminent in his time.

To paſs by that ſharp Conteſt, he was engaged in by ſome Profeſſors of Divinity at *Utrecht*, who endeavoured to diſcredit his Philoſophy, as leading to Libertiniſme and Atheiſme, notwithſtanding he made it ſo much his buſineſs, as to aſſert the Exiſtence of a Deity, and the Immortality of a Soul: We ſhall take notice of what is more to our purpoſe, *viz.* the Differences, he had touching his *Dioptricks* and *Geometry*.

As for his *Dioptricks*, though a great part of the Learned World have much eſteem'd that Treatiſe, as leaving little to be ſaid after him upon that Subject; yet there have not been wanting Mathematicians, who have declared their diſagreement from his Principles in that Doctrine. The firſt of them was the Jeſuit *Eourdin*, Mathematick Profeſſor in the Colledg of *Clermont* at *Paris*; but this difference was ſoon at an end. A ſecond was Mr. *Hobbs*, upon whoſe account he wrote ſeveral Letters to *Merſennus*, containing many remarks conducing to the Knowledge of the Nature of *Reflection* and *Refraction*. But the Perſon, that did moſt learnedly and reſolutely attack the ſaid *Dioptricks*, was Monſieur *Fermat*, writing